



City of Minnetonka Proclamation

JUNETEENTH
June 19, 2021

WHEREAS, The United States of America is a nation founded on the principles of liberty and justice for all, and the Civil War was fought to ensure that freedom would be shared by all; and

WHEREAS, On January 1, 1863, Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, which gave freedom to the enslaved people in the rebelling states; and

WHEREAS, Freedom became a reality much later for enslaved Black people in Texas on June 19, 1865, over two years after the Emancipation Proclamation was signed; and

WHEREAS, June 19th has a special meaning to African-Americans, and is called "JUNETEENTH" by combining the words June and Nineteenth; it has been celebrated by the African-American community for over 150 years; and

WHEREAS, Juneteenth marks our country's second Independence Day, celebrating freedom and justice and emphasizing education, achievement, and tolerance; and

WHEREAS, The full promise of that day is yet unrealized, and therefore Juneteenth also serves as a reminder of the work yet to come that will be necessary in order to ensure a more equitable world for future generations; and

WHEREAS, The City of Minnetonka recognizes and affirms the value of Black lives and the immeasurable contributions of African Americans to this country and this city.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Minnetonka does hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 as JUNETEENTH in the City of Minnetonka and urge all citizens to become more aware of the significance of this celebration in African American history and continue to work toward racial equity and realization of the full promise of emancipation.

Brad Wiersum, Mayor

June 14, 2021